

# HOMELESSNESS IN THE CITY OF BOSTON

WINTER 2007-2008

ANNUAL CENSUS REPORT  
DECEMBER 18, 2007



CITY OF BOSTON  
MAYOR THOMAS M. MENINO

OFFICE OF THE MAYOR  
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## EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The December 18, 2007 City of Boston annual census of homeless persons again illustrates the continued and growing need for affordable housing for families and individuals who are without a place to live in the City. This year's census reveals a decrease in the number of individual adults who are homeless marking a trend starting in 2006 when there was a slight decline. Both targeted efforts on eliminating barriers to housing and new resources for supported housing for individuals who need both housing and service support are demonstrating a positive impact for individual adults in Boston. This trend confirms the effectiveness of initiatives targeting long term street and shelter dwellers and justifies expansion of similar efforts in order to house a greater portion of the individual adult homeless population.

In contrast, there is an alarming increase in families who are homeless, a trend that continues for the second year in a row at an even higher rate. Families, caught in the foreclosure crisis are experiencing dramatically more difficult financial challenges leaving them without resources to maintain their housing. Housing market, cost of living and limitation on earnings continue to dictate families' ability to maintain their housing indicating a growing need for financial resources for permanent affordable housing opportunities.

As the need of already homeless households is less than the actual need of people who are at risk of losing their housing or are already living in tenuous temporary housing situations and at risk of becoming homeless, increased affordable housing resources for families are urgent.

### KEY FINDINGS

- The census counted 6,930 men, women and children who were homeless in Boston, an increase of 4% over last year's count of 6,636.
- The number of families who were homeless increased by 17%.
- The number of individuals who were homeless decreased by 5%, a greater number than the 1% and 3% in the two prior years.

## **BACKGROUND**

The City of Boston conducted the 22<sup>nd</sup> annual homeless census on December 18, 2007, a point in time count of women, men and children with out homes residing instead in emergency shelter, transitional housing programs, domestic violence shelters, medical respite beds, recovery homes, hospital inpatient units, and living unsheltered on the street. Over 300 volunteers participated in the street count and all shelters and treatment facilities in the City were surveyed.

## **HISTORY**

The Emergency Shelter Commission in the Mayor's Office began conducting annual counts of homeless people on the street and in shelter beginning in 1983. The first count performed by six volunteers spanned a two week period and counted only the street population, the size and needs of which had not yet been tracked. This initial project developed into the single night point-in-time count of both the street population and those in shelter. In 2001 the Emergency Shelter Commission expanded the scope of the count, including homeless people residing in medical respite, detox and medical inpatient facilities in order to count homeless people who, but for the given night of the count would be in shelter or on the street. Recently, in 2001, the Emergency Shelter Commission developed a survey for shelter providers and managers of other reporting facilities to learn more about the homeless population counted. This survey, required by HUD provides details on certain circumstances contributing to a person's homelessness including chronicity, veteran status, domestic violence and substance abuse. Most major U.S. cities do not conduct a street count of persons residing on the street, however, Boston believes this is key to fully understanding the scope of the issue. The City also expanded the information gathered in the street count by having volunteers ask key questions of homeless individuals recorded on that to determine how many elderly persons and veteran's are on the street.

## **PURPOSE**

The initiators of the Homeless Census recognized that without quantifying the scope of the crisis of homelessness in the City, providing and calling for resources in sufficient quantity would be difficult. With accurate numbers, the City can plan and seek funding for housing resources to provide affordable units that can include appropriate services when needed. The City can also coordinate services for those remaining on the streets and in shelter including, shelter, street outreach, food, clothing, medical, employment training, substance abuse treatment and mental health treatment that both ensure safety while people are still homeless.

The Census provides data on trends in both individual and family homelessness, demographics on these populations and illustrates basic services sought by this population. The City of Boston also uses this data in applications for funding for housing and services for the homeless in Boston.

## **METHODOLOGY**

The United States Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) requires all municipalities receiving McKinney grant funds through a Continuum of Care to conduct an annual one night survey of homeless women, men and children shelters, transitional housing and on the

street. The City of Boston's annual homeless census has for many years additionally included homeless people staying temporarily in medical and chemical dependency treatment facilities to ensure a comprehensive survey of homeless people throughout systems of care in the City. HUD does not include these additional programs in its required point-in-time count, however, the City identifies this broader population in its planning and policy development.

All 54 shelter programs were surveyed for the night of the census with 97% reporting.<sup>1</sup> Additionally, 32 transitional houses, 11 medical respite facilities, 19 health care facilities, six mental health facilities and 28 substance abuse facilities were surveyed with 95% reporting.<sup>2</sup>

#### STREET COUNT

Thirty-six teams of volunteers from the public and private sectors canvassed all areas of the city by foot and by vehicle identifying and tallying homeless individuals.<sup>3</sup> In 2007, the Emergency Shelter Commission expanded the neighborhoods covered by foot, providing teams for the neighborhoods of Dorchester, Roxbury and Mattapan including Dudley Square, Savin Hill, Fields Corner, Codman Square, Bowdoin Geneva and Mattapan Square. Teams were led by trained team leaders, many with years of experience participating in and leading census teams. Each team was asked to:

- Identify people who were homeless;
- Confirm homeless status verbally with the individual when appropriate and possible;
- Identify gender;
- Estimate or confirm verbally that people were over the age of 55;
- Confirm veteran status;
- Offer access and transportation to shelter;
- Offer or call for medical services as needed.

#### SHELTER COUNT

Staff in 150 facilities including, shelters, detox facilities, medical respite facilities, transitional housing and hospitals were briefed on the Census and the data collected. During the three days following the Census, staff reported bed counts to the ESC by indicators including:

- Gender;
- Individual or family unit;
- Adult or children.

Additionally, shelters provided detailed information on demographics and household characteristics through a survey that shelter providers submitted on households and individuals in their facilities.<sup>4</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> Two shelters did not report the number of people in their facilities.

<sup>2</sup> One mental health facility, one medical respite and four substance abuse treatment facilities did not report the number of people in their facilities.

<sup>3</sup> Thirty-three areas of the City were covered by teams on foot and eight areas were covered by teams in vehicles. Areas covered by foot are areas where homeless people are known to sleep regularly. Areas covered by car see extremely fewer individuals and cover neighborhoods that are primarily residential, without commercial or service resources.

<sup>4</sup> At the time of publication, compiled survey information was not available.

## PEOPLE ON THE STREET

Winter 2007-2008				Winter 2006-2007				Winter 2005-2006		
Adult Male	Adult Female	Children	Change	Adult Male	Adult Female	Children	Change	Adult Male	Adult Female	Children
156	28			243	63			227	34	
<i>Total</i>	184		-40%		306		17%		261	

This year marked an unprecedented 40% decline in the number of people counted as living on the streets of Boston. This significant decline is due to targeted efforts in 2007 to provide housing for long term street dwellers including those people living on the street over the age of 55. The unusually cold weather and snow in mid December 2007 drew some people to shelters, however, the shelter population also decreased indicating another reason for the decline of the street population.

### WEATHER VARIATIONS

Due to varied seasonal weather conditions, Boston experiences a dramatic shift in number of people living on the street from season to season. During warmer months, significantly more people are observed living on the street than are seen during the winter. The winter count measures primarily people who are on the street year around and who are chronically homeless with mental illness or substance abuse issues or dually diagnosed with both. These year round street dwellers often report difficulty in dealing with the process of accessing and staying shelters. While they demonstrate independence and skill to survive sleeping on the streets, these people are the most vulnerable and at-risk individuals who are homeless in the City.

### HOUSING EFFORTS

Several initiatives to provide housing for people on the street in 2007 have impacted the decline of this population.

The State of Massachusetts' funding for "Home and Healthy for Good," vouchers and supported services administered through Boston based non-profit agencies provides a low barrier to entry subsidy that is paired with stabilization services to ensure that a person's transition from the street or shelter is supported.

The Emergency Shelter Commission's Elder Street Homeless Initiative (ESHI), a collaborative of fourteen non-profits and City departments working with the Emergency Shelter Commission to track, prioritize, identify housing needs and placement opportunities tracked 140 people, 77 of whom became housed, at two years into the program.

Additionally, the Boston Common Ground effort, a housing application outreach collaborative effort between non-profits, the Emergency Shelter Commission and the Boston Housing Authority (BHA) launched in August of 2007, began to impact the street population around the time of the Census. In that month, homeless people began to take occupancy of BHA Single Room Occupancy (SRO) units through their Section 8 Mod Rehab program.

Other targeting of vouchers administered by non-profits as well as new supported housing units developed by non-profits and funded in part by the City provided housing units that street homeless people have moved into, resulting in fewer people living on the street.

## ADULTS IN SHELTER

Winter 2007-2008							Winter 2006-2007		
	Male	Female	Children	Individual Adults	Families	Change	Male	Female	Children
<b>Individual Adults in Shelter</b>									
Boston Rescue Mission- Kingston House	53	7			60		106	4	
BPHC Long Island Shelter	351	41			392		372	41	
BPHC Woods Mullen shelter	141	68			209		137	69	
hopeFound Boston	96	18			114		104	20	
hopeFound Men's Kitty Dukakis	28				28		---	N/A	---
New England Shelter for Homeless Veterans	24				24		26	1	
Pine Street Inn- Boston Night Center	44	14			58		48	10	
Pine Street Inn- Men's Inn	275				275		279		
Pine Street Inn- Women's Inn		71			71			73	
Rosie's Place		20			20			20	
Sancta Maria		8			8			10	
United Homes- Pilgrim Church	137				137		137		
<b>Total Individual Adults in Shelter by Category</b>	<b>1,149</b>	<b>247</b>		<b>1,396</b>			<b>1,209</b>	<b>248</b>	
<b>Total Individual Adults in Shelter</b>	<b>1,396</b>				<b>-4%</b>	<b>1,457</b>			

The decline in the street count was accompanied by a simultaneous decline in the number of adults in shelter in the 2007 Census. This slight decrease supports the significant decline in the adult street population, indicating an overall decline in the single adult homeless population. The number of adults in shelter declined only by 1%, continuing the trend of six years of slight declines.

## ENTRIES INTO SHELTER

The shelter system continues to be the safety net when state systems of care fail an individual. For every person who successfully attains housing, another enters the shelter system. According to a Pine Street Inn survey of guests, nearly 50% had been in another governmental system of care within one week of arrival at the shelter including hospitals, prisons and other institutions. This astounding figure demonstrates the lack of advanced and triage planning for people's housing resources when in State systems of care. Without addressing the lack of discharge planning around housing resources, there will be a steady stream of people entering shelter who do not have the resources to attain housing after discharge.



## HOUSING RESOURCES

The insufficient affordable housing resources in the City and State are responsible for the ongoing influx of homeless people into the shelter system and other people's inability to exit the shelter system in housing. When housing subsidies and units are targeted to homeless people, as with the past year's efforts to target long term street dwellers, the number of people homeless decline. This is a simple correlation that makes a powerful argument for prioritizing housing resources for people on the street and in shelters. Mayor Menino's commitment to developing affordable housing in the City has resulted in the Leading the Way I and II initiatives led by the Department of Neighborhood Development, the Boston Redevelopment Authority and the Boston Housing Authority with commitments of 7,500 new affordable housing units, 900 of which are targeted to people who are homeless. Additionally, the Boston Housing Authority's application priority for people who are homeless is key in accessing BHA units for those people most in need.

## FAMILIES IN SHELTER

Winter 2007-2008							Winter 2006-2007			
	Male	Female	Children	Individual Adults	Families	Change	Male	Female	Children	
<b>Families in Shelter</b>						<b>-4%</b>				
<b>Family Shelter</b>										
Boston Family Shelter		8	11		8			8	9	
Casa Nueva Vida		16	32		16			16	27	
Children's Services of Roxbury Millennium House	4	17	24		21		6	22	30	
Crittenton Women's Union- Assessment	4	24	33		28			56	56	
Crittenton Women's Union- Hastings House Congregate		62	62		54			28	39	
Crossroads	3	10	21		14		6	13	24	
Families-In-Transition- Huntington YMCA	1	20	30		21			22	31	
Family House Shelter- Roxbury Multi-Service Center	2	24	38		24		3	23	41	
Hildebrand at Morse Street	4	16	33		19		2	19	29	
LifeHouse Shelter		10	12		10			11	11	
New Chardon Temporary Home		12	18		12			11	14	
Project Hope		11	14		11			11	11	
Queen of Peace		10	6		10			2	1	
Salvation Army- Roxbury Family Hope	1	4	9		5			5	13	
Sojourner House	1	7	14		7		1	8	13	
St. Ambrose Family Inn		15	15		15			16	13	
St. Mary's Women & Children Center- Margaret's House		32	42		32			32	36	
St. Mary's Women & Children Center- St. Mary's Home		14			14			16	16	
Traveler's Aid- Family Emergency Shelter		1	3		1		2	7	18	
<b>Subtotal Families in Family Shelter by Category</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>313</b>	<b>417</b>		<b>322</b>		<b>20</b>	<b>326</b>	<b>432</b>	
<b>Subtotal Families in Family Shelter</b>	<b>750</b>							<b>778</b>		
<b>Scattered Site</b>										
Children's Services of Roxbury	47	99	246		99			18	86	240
Crittenton Women's Union- Community Housing	15	37	70		37			6	19	37
Hildebrand	20	68	111		69			16	41	63
Metropolitan Boston Housing Partnership	17	53	144		59			21	55	151
Shelter Inc.									3	2
Traveler's Aid -Scattered Site	23	57	106		55			13	38	84
<b>Subtotal Families in Scattered Site Units by Category</b>	<b>122</b>	<b>314</b>	<b>677</b>		<b>320</b>		<b>74</b>	<b>242</b>	<b>577</b>	
<b>Subtotal Families in Scattered Site Units</b>	<b>1,113</b>					<b>25%</b>	<b>893</b>			

Sheltered Outside Boston								
Dept. of Transitional Assistance Boston Families Outside of Boston	41	254	427	252		35	115	233
Subtotal Families Sheltered Outside of Boston by Category	41	254	427	252		35	115	233
Subtotal Families Sheltered Outside of Boston	722				89%	383		
Total Family Shelter by Category	183	881	1,521	894		129	683	1,242
Total Family Shelter	2,585				26%	2,054		

A dramatic 17% increase in family homelessness in the 2007 Census illustrates a growing crisis for households in the City of Boston. The rising cost of living in rent, fuel and food combined with the foreclosure crisis affecting both homeowners and renters has impacted Boston's low-income households who have been living close to the brink of homelessness. At a time when federal and state subsidies are not keeping up with the growing need, families are experiencing a shortage of resources to help them bridge the gap between low incomes and rising costs of living.

#### ENTRIES INTO SHELTER

The City of Boston's Emergency Shelter Commission fields the now growing influx of calls for housing and shelter from families who are not eligible for shelter through the State Department of Transitional Assistance (DTA). As families in DTA shelter beds rose in number, households in non-DTA community rooms reached maximum as well. Length of shelter stays has not decreased while entries are increasing, indicating that housing resources are not keeping up with growing needs as well as not meeting the needs of families who lost their housing even prior to this recent surge in housing need.

#### HOUSING EFFORTS

While individuals who are homeless often need supportive housing and low barrier to entry housing due to multiple disabilities preventing easy access to housing, families often simply need a unit with rent affordable to a low-income household. With high development costs for multi-room units, the rate of production of affordable family units has not kept pace with need; likewise, federal Section 8 voucher and state MA Rental Voucher Program (MRVP) funding has not increased to meet the number of families losing their housing. Current funding for the state MRVP is funded shy of 30 million while estimated need exceeds 50 million. While state funding for housing and has risen since 2003, the 2007 funding of over 200 million dollars is well below the 400 million allocated in the early nineties. With rents in many Boston neighborhoods rising between 8-22% in the five year period leading up to 2007,<sup>5</sup> the impact of increasing rent burdens contributes to the considerable rise in family shelter increases.

<sup>5</sup> Heudorfer, Bonnie and Barry Bluestone, "Greater Boston Housing Report Card 2006-2007," The Center for Urban and Regional Policy Northeastern University, October 2007, page 39, Table 4.3.

## DOMESTIC VIOLENCE SHELTERS

	Winter 2007-2008					Change	Winter 2006-2007		
	Male	Female	Children	Individual Adults	Families		Male	Female	Children
<b>Domestic Violence Programs</b>									
Asian Shelter Advocacy Project	1	6	7		6			12	8
Casa Myrna Vazquez- 1		10	14		10			24	24
Casa Myrna Vazquez- 2		10	13		10		---	N/A	---
DOVE, Inc.		8	5		5			6	9
Elizabeth Stone House		18	26		18			19	21
FINEX House		8	13		8			32	10
Harbor Cove		4	3		4				
Renewal House		5	9		5			5	6
Transition House								8	7
<b>Total Domestic Violence Programs by Category</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>69</b>	<b>90</b>		<b>66</b>			<b>106</b>	<b>85</b>
<b>Total Domestic Violence Programs</b>		<b>160</b>				<b>- 16%</b>		<b>191</b>	

\*The percentage decrease is due to decline in one facility while other facilities remained at similar capacity as in 2006.

Domestic violence shelters in past years have followed the trends of family shelters though in 2007 the numbers of people in these programs declined 16% largely due to one shelter's decrease in enrollment. All other programs experienced similar demand as in prior years, indicating static need for this category of facility.

The domestic violence shelters and the family shelters are two systems funded primarily by separate state agencies with the domestic violence shelters funded by the MA Dept. of Social Services and the family shelters funded by the MA Dept. of Transitional Assistance. Because of time limited stays often women need to leave shelter before they have secured housing and end up enter family shelter linking demand for these two systems.

## ADOLESCENT FACILITIES

		Winter 2007-2008					Winter 2006-2007					
		Male	Female	Children	Individual Adults	Families	Change	Male	Female	Children		
<b><u>Adolescent Programs</u></b>												
Bridge Over Troubled Waters- Coop Apartments	---										N/A	---
Bridge Over Troubled Waters- Host Homes	---										N/A	---
Bridge Over Troubled Waters- Trinity	2										3	2
Bridge Over Troubled Waters- Women and Children's Residence	1										2	
Gavin Foundation- Cushing House	12										16	
<b>Total Adolescent Programs by Category</b>		<b>17</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>2</b>				<b>4</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>1</b>		
<b>Total Adolescent Programs</b>		<b>42</b>					<b>200%</b>	<b>14</b>				

\*The change in total is 200% however this is due to the addition of a new adolescent to the Census count. Without the new program, there is no percentage change from 2006 to 2007.

For the 2007 Census, a new adolescent program, a substance abuse facility, was included for the first time. The increase in youth is accounted for by these new 28 placements and otherwise is consistent with last year's count of 14 unaccompanied youth in shelters.

Youth and young adult homelessness is often linked to children who receive care from state agencies prior to becoming homelessness. Of youth aging out of care of the Department of Social Services (DSS), an astounding 37% report experiencing homelessness.<sup>6</sup>

<sup>6</sup> "Preparing Our Kids for Education, Work and Life," Cambridge Family & Children's Services and The Home for Little Wanderers, June 2008 page 13.

## HEALTH CARE FACILITIES

Winter 2007-2008											Winter 2006-2007		
		Male	Female	Children	Individual Adults	Families	Change	Male	Female	Children			
<b>Hospitals and Other Health Care</b>													
<b>Emergency Rooms</b>													
Beth Israel-Deaconess					5			1					
Boston Medical Center		3	2	2									
Brigham and Women's													
Carney		4			4								
Faulkner													
Massachusetts General		1	1		2								
New England Medical Center		1			1								
St. Elizabeth's													
<b>Subtotal Emergency Room by Category</b>		<b>9</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>12</b>			<b>1</b>					
<b>Subtotal Emergency Room</b>		<b>14</b>						<b>1</b>					
<b>Hospital and Inpatient</b>													
Beth Israel-Deaconess		5	2		7			3					
Boston Medical Center		23	7	1	30			6	1				
Brigham and Women's								6	1				
Carney		4	1		5			1					
Chidren's			1	1	1								
Faulkner		1			1			3					
VA (for 07-08 West Roxbury only)		4			4			63	7				
Massachusetts General		15	4		19			10	3				
New England Medical Center		7	5	2	12			8	4				
Shattuck		42	20		62			47	20				
St. Elizabeth's		2			2								
<b>Subtotal Hospital and Inpatient by Category</b>		<b>103</b>	<b>40</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>143</b>			<b>147</b>	<b>36</b>				
<b>Subtotal Hospital and Inpatient</b>		<b>147</b>					<b>-20%</b>	<b>183</b>					
<b>Medical Respite</b>													
Barbara M. McInnis House (BHCHP Respite Pgm)		78	10		88			67	15				
<b>Subtotal Medical Respite by Category</b>		<b>78</b>	<b>10</b>		<b>88</b>			<b>67</b>	<b>15</b>				
<b>Subtotal Medical Respite</b>		<b>88</b>					<b>7%</b>	<b>82</b>					
<b>Total Hospitals and Other Health Care by Category</b>		<b>190</b>	<b>53</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>243</b>			<b>215</b>	<b>51</b>				
<b>Total Hospitals and Other Health Care</b>		<b>249</b>					<b>-6%</b>	<b>266</b>					

While hospital and emergency room facilities have been canvassed as part of the Census historically, this year a new strategy was employed for counting the number of homeless people in these facilities. Rather than solely rely upon the staff at Boston Medical Center to track people who are homeless, staff from Boston Health Care for the Homeless made rounds to identify all people in the hospital who were homeless. This new strategy indeed resulted in a 2007 count that is four times the number of people accounted for in this particular facility in 2006.

Emergency room rates increased and hospital patients decreased this year due to higher rate of reporting from ERs and a lower reporting rate from Veterans Affairs. Excluding the VA numbers from 2006, the 2007 numbers show a slight increase in hospital and inpatient counts but are relatively constant from the prior year. Medical respite numbers increased 7% but only by 6 people over 2006.

Winter 2007-2008							Winter 2006-2007		
	Male	Female	Children	Individual Adults	Families	Change	Male	Female	Children
<b>Mental Health Facilities</b>									
DMH/Vincent BayView Inn	21			21			16		
DMH Fenwood Inn	23	11		34			27	8	
DMH Lindemann Shelter	37	9		46			38	7	
DMH Shattuck Inpatient	92	26		118			79	32	
Parker Street West								16	
Soloman Carter Fuller (for 07-08 included in Lindemann)	---	N/A	---				---	N/A	---
St. Alphonsus Respite	5			5			4		
DMH West End Shelter	40	14		54			30	14	
<b>Total Mental Health Facilities by Category</b>	<b>218</b>	<b>60</b>		<b>278</b>			<b>194</b>	<b>77</b>	
<b>Total Mental Health Facilities</b>		<b>278</b>				<b>3%</b>		<b>271</b>	

Mental health facility placements increased by only 3% or seven people over the 2006 level.<sup>7</sup> Several non-profit agencies serving Boston are recipients of federal SAMHSA grants which allow them to provide even more targeted housing and stabilization resources for people with mental illness.

<sup>7</sup> One facility did not report indicating that the total could be higher than 278.

## SUBSTANCE ABUSE FACILITIES

		Winter 2007-2008					Winter 2006-2007			
		Male	Female	Children	Individual Adults	Families	Change	Male	Female	Children
<u>Dextox and Substance Abuse Treatment</u>										
Medical Respite										
Bay Cove- Andrew House		14	2		16			15	1	
Bay Cove- Bridge to Recovery		26	2		28			8		
Bay Cove- New Hope								18	13	
BPHC Transitions		49	6		55			32	8	
CAB Boston Treatment Center		31	10		41			23	10	
Dimock- John Flowers Recovery		21			21			6	3	
hopeFound Stabilization		47			47			35		
Pine Street Inn- Men's Inn		8			8			11		
United Homes- Richardson House		5	7		12			7	6	
Victory Programs- Women's Hope			4		4				7	
Total Detox/Substance Treatment by Category		201	31		232			155	48	
Total Detox and Substance Abuse Treatment		232					14%	203		

Detox and substance abuse facilities, both medical respite and residential recovery homes are a critical component of the Census as a many individuals faced with homelessness also face substance abuse issues. This year, the number of individuals in substance abuse treatment and recovering homes declined by 12% or 61 people while the number of individuals in medical respite increased by 14% or 29 people. The changes in these two types of substance abuse facilities indicate an increase of 4% or 32 people.

The challenge of facing substance abuse issues is not limited to individuals, however, there are far fewer family facilities and families placements in residential recovery homes. The two family facilities had a 22% decline in placements with 12 fewer families than in 2006. Overall, recovery home placements declined 13% in 2007.



## TRANSITIONAL SHELTERS

		Winter 2007-2008					Winter 2006-2007			
		Male	Female	Children	Individual Adults	Families	Change	Male	Female	Children
<u>Individual Adult Transitional Programs</u>										
Betty's Place- Project Place			15					15		
Boston Rescue Mission- Kingston House	23			23			48	4		
BPHC Project SOAR	56	34		90			56	33		
BPHC Safe Harbor	19	1		20			19	1		
BPHC Wise Street Transitional	8			8			10			
Cardinal Medeiros	55			55			50			
Elders Living at Home	19			19			22	8		
Eliot Tri City Safe Haven		6		6				5		
hopeFound Men's Transitional	30			30			30			
New England Shelter for Homeless Veterans	217	6		223			235	4		
Pine Street Inn- Anchor Inn	145			145			148			
Pine Street Inn- Holy Family Shelter	60			60			60			
Pine Street Inn- Men's Inn Engage	12			12			12			
Pine Street Inn- Men's Transitional	60			60			55			
Pine Street Inn- Men's Working Men's Program	21			21			18			
Pine Street Inn- Women In Transition		40		40				37		
Saint Francis House- MAP	---	N/A	---				14	12		
Saint Francis House- Next Step	12	4		16			21	6		
Salvation Army- Harbor Lights Renewal		44		44		38	6			
United Homes- Second Home	8	11		19		8	9			
United Homes- Washington Street	13			13						
<b>Total Individual Adults in Transitional Programs by Category</b>		<b>758</b>	<b>161</b>		<b>919</b>			<b>844</b>	<b>140</b>	
<b>Total Individual Adults in Transitional Programs</b>		<b>919</b>				<b>-7%</b>	<b>984</b>			

Winter 2007-2008							Winter 2006-2007			
		Male	Female	Children	Individual Adults	Families	Change	Male	Female	Children
<b><u>Family Transitional</u></b>										
Brookview House			12	29		12			12	29
Casa Esperanza- Latinos Y Ninos			10	2		2			15	4
Crittenton Women's Union- Horizons			17	26		17			18	33
Crittenton Women's Union- TRAC		---	N/A	---					4	6
Dennis McGlaughlin House			9	11		9			10	13
Dimock- Mary Eliza Mahoney		5	26	43		26		5	24	44
Dimock- Ummi's			12	3		12			12	8
Nazareth House			9	7		9			10	9
Traveler's Aid- Transitional		9	39	64		35		---	N/A	---
Victory Programs- Portis Family House			5	4		5			4	6
Victory Programs- Revision House			22	23		22			22	22
<b>Total Family Transitional by Category</b>		<b>14</b>	<b>161</b>	<b>212</b>	<b>149</b>			<b>5</b>	<b>131</b>	<b>174</b>
<b>Total Family Transitional</b>		<b>387</b>					<b>25%</b>	<b>310</b>		

Following the trend of individual and family shelter placements, individual transitional housing placements decreased slightly by 7% and family transitional shelter placements increased significantly by 25%.

## SUMMARY TOTALS

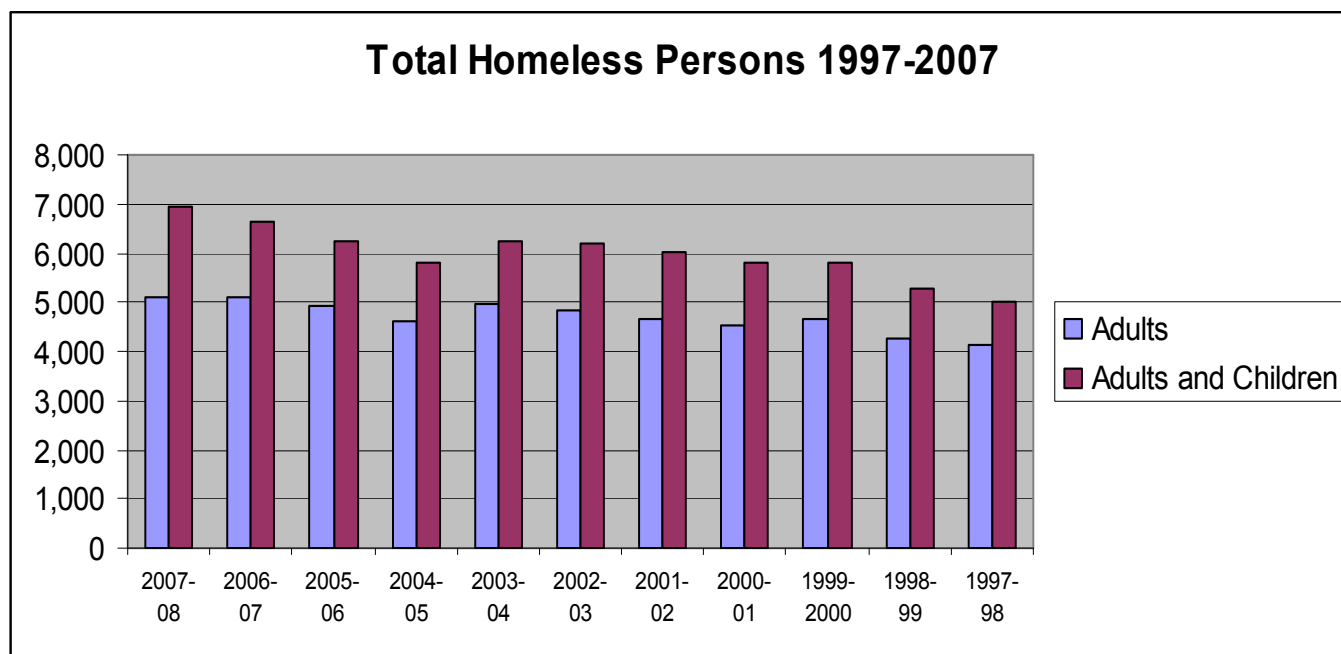
		Winter 2007-2008					Winter 2006-2007			
		Male	Female	Children	Individual Adults	Families	Change	Male	Female	Children
<b><u>Summary Homeless Total</u></b>										
Street Count		156	28				-40%	243	63	
Individual Adult Shelters		1,149	247				-4%	1,209	248	
Family Shelters		20	313	417			-4%	20	326	432
Family Scattered Site		122	314	677			25%	74	242	577
Family Outside of Boston		41	254	427			89%	35	115	233
Domestic Violence		1	69	90			-16%		106	85
Adolescent		17	25	2			200%	6	14	5
Hospital E.R.		9	3	2			1300%	1		
Hospital Inpatient		103	40	4			-20%	147	36	
Medical Respite		78	10				7%	67	15	
Detox, Post Detox, TSS		201	31				14%	155	48	
Recovery Homes- Individual		356	97				-12%	427	86	
Recovery Homes- Families			24	19			-22%		22	34
Mental Health		218	60				-3%	194	77	
Transitional Housing- Individuals		758	161				-7%	844	140	
Transitional Housing- Families		14	161	212			-16%	5	131	174
<b>Total Homeless by Category</b>		<b>3,243</b>	<b>1,837</b>	<b>1,850</b>	<b>3,705</b>	<b>1,117</b>		<b>3,427</b>	<b>1,669</b>	<b>1,540</b>
<b>Total Homeless Adults</b>		<b>5,080</b>					<b>-0.3%</b>	<b>5,096</b>		
<b>Total Individual Adults</b>		<b>3,705</b>					<b>-7%</b>	<b>4,000</b>		
<b>Total People in Families</b>		<b>3,175</b>					<b>20%</b>	<b>2,636</b>		
<b>Total Children</b>		<b>1,850</b>					<b>21%</b>	<b>1,523</b>		
<b>Grand Total</b>		<b>6,930</b>					<b>4%</b>	<b>6,636</b>		

## FIVE AND TEN YEAR TRENDS

Over the last ten years, the number of people homeless in the City of Boston has increased by 38%, growing nearly 2,000 people. There has been a 23% rise in the single adult population and an increase in children homeless by 107%.

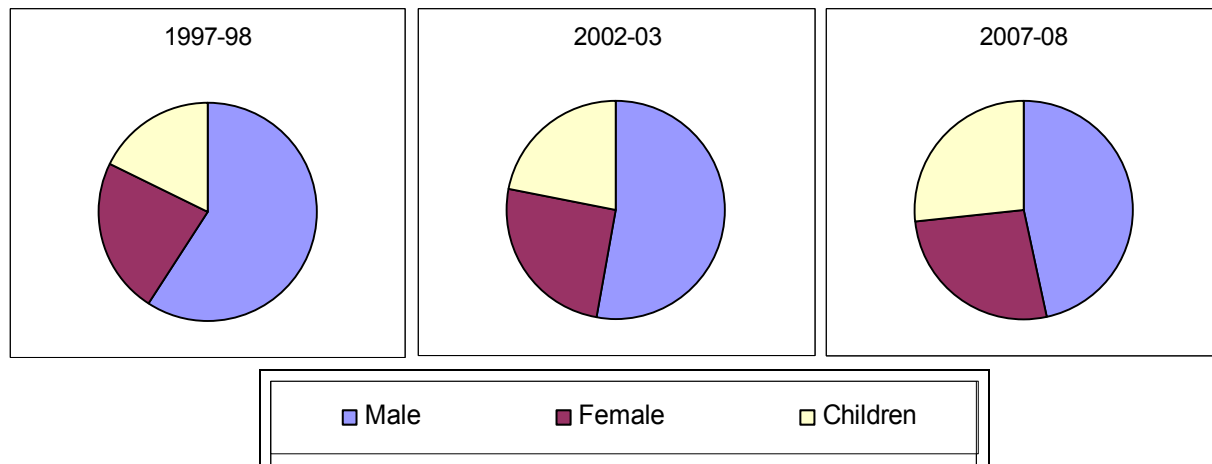
A five year comparison indicates a 12% increase in the number of people homeless with a 5% increase in the number of single adults<sup>8</sup> and a 35% increase in the number of children homeless.

Family household units were not counted as a discreet category in the 2002 and 1997 Census reports and so children are cited as an indication of the rise in family homelessness. Applying the 2007 average of 1.7 (footnote 1.656) children per household to the number of children homeless five and ten years ago provides an estimate of 825 families homeless in 2002 and 539 families homeless in 1997.

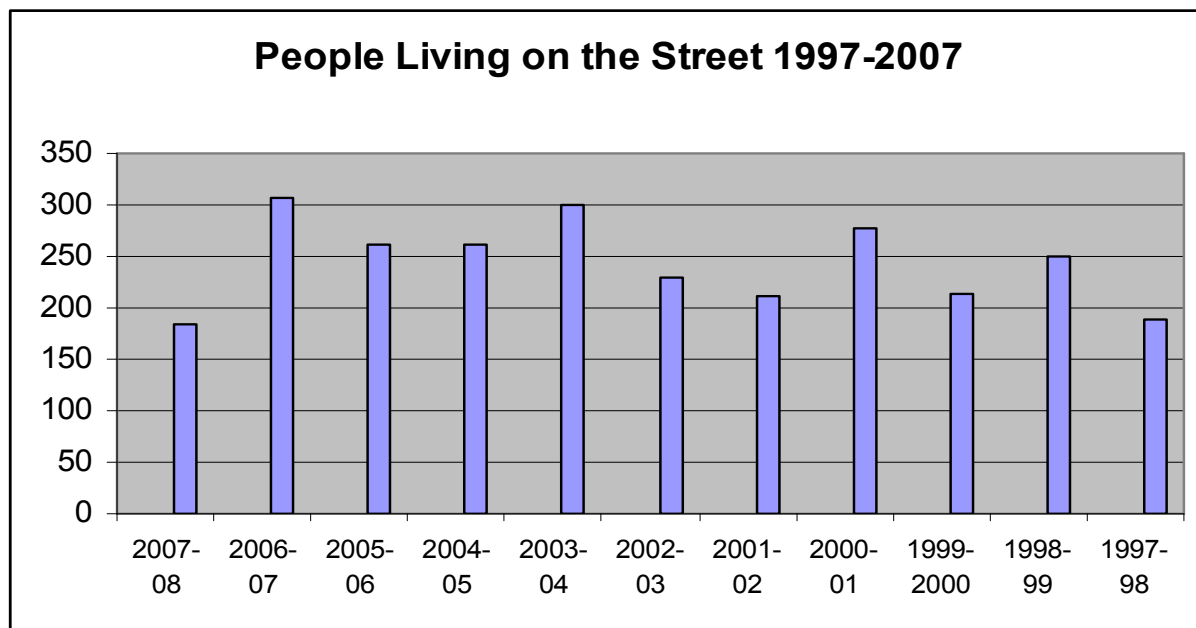


<sup>8</sup> In the 1997 and 2002 Census reports, the “adults in shelter” category included transitional and medical respite facility counts. In order to compare this prior data to 2007 population counts, these transitional and medical respite numbers were removed and counted in separate categories. For facilities where it was not known whether the population was in a shelter or transitional facility, the number remained in the “adults in shelter” category. Up to an additional 225 of the individuals counted in the “adults in shelter” category could represent transitional beds.

The number of females homeless has increased dramatically in 10 years, by 60% since 1997 and by 17% since 2002 which is related to the increase in the number of people in families.



The only population with a significant decline over a ten year period is in people living on the streets, which in 2007 was at the second lowest count in ten years. In 1997, there were a comparable 180 people living on the streets compared with the highs of 2000, 2003 and 2006 when counts reached highs of between 277 and 306.



## **ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS**

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FOR TRANSPORTATION AND FOOD FOR THE HOMELESS

THE BARKING CRAB

FOR FOOD FOR THE VOLUNTEERS

PINE STREET INN

FOR TRANSPORTATION AND SERVICES FOR THE HOMELESS

BOSTON HEALTH CARE FOR THE HOMELESS PROGRAM

FOR PERSONALLY CANVASSING HOSPITALS

CITY OF BOSTON INSPECTIONAL SERVICES

FOR VEHICLE TEAM COVERAGE

CITY OF BOSTON 24 HOUR SERVICE

FOR COORDINATING STREET TEAM COMMUNICATIONS

TEAM LEADERS

FOR DEDICATING THEIR TIME

THE OVER 300 VOLUNTEERS

FOR CANVASSING THE CITY ON FOOT

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